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Item 115 (b) of the provisional agenda*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 20 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In view of its relevance to item 115 (b) of the provisional agenda of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request that you circulate among States Members of the Organization the text of the Bambito Declaration (see annex) signed by the participants in the National Encounter, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which took place in the above-mentioned town on 2-3 August 1993.

Their Excellencies Belisario Betancourt and Julio María Sanguinetti, former Presidents of Colombia and Uruguay respectively, were witnesses to the above-mentioned Encounter.

(Signed) Carlos AROSEMA A.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

Annex

National Encounter

"Unity and Human Development"

Bambito Declaration

Meeting in Bambito, Province of Chiriquí, at the invitation of the United Nations Development Programme, in a National Encounter on "Unity and Human Development", the undersigned, representing political parties, workers' and employers' organizations, representatives of the church and universities, and special invitees, participated in a fruitful dialogue which brought to light the common conviction that Panama is at a decisive moment in its history, one which extends beyond the electoral period. This moment requires of all the actors in Panamanian society agreement on a set of fundamental principles which will consolidate democracy in Panama by renewing the ethical dimension of its national life and adopting a humanistic approach to political, economic and social development.

In this spirit, agreement was first reached on the participants' desire to keep this forum for dialogue and cooperation in being, and the United Nations and the participating universities offered their good offices to that end.

It was agreed that this dialogue should take place under the auspices of the United Nations and the participating universities, and that it should focus primarily on certain issues which should be incorporated into the programmes of the political parties:

1. Strengthening of national independence and Panamanian democracy on the basis of a State conceived as a means of achieving human development, an instrument for permitting the exercise of freedom and a guarantee of human and civil rights. The State thus conceived will provide for greater citizen participation and will offer both de jure and de facto safeguards that create an environment conducive to peaceful coexistence.

2. Conclusion of the political agreements necessary for the establishment of the legal and administrative structures which Panama needs to set up without delay in order to manage and operate the Panama Canal successfully with effect from 31 December 1999, at 12 noon, Panama time.

3. Pursuit of economic and social development with a human face by combating, in unity and harmony, unemployment and poverty in all areas of national, urban and rural life.

4. Modernization of the education and health services, which should be seen both as a moral imperative and an essential instrument for the development of society which requires a highly trained population enjoying broad access to expanding opportunities for advancement.

5. The pooling of national efforts to bring about the genuine integration, as part of Panama's economic and social development strategy, of the areas adjacent

to the Canal that have already been returned as well as those that are still to be returned, and also to promote sustainable development that would benefit all sectors of the society.

6. Improved administrative efficiency and strengthening of the independence of the judiciary in order both to guarantee the rights of the partners and to stimulate private initiative as a means of creating wealth and generating employment, while at the same time relieving the external debt burden which impedes this vital process of economic revitalization, and building a consensus on a national strategy for adjusting to the changes taking place on the international scene.

The former President of the Republic of Colombia, Belisario Betancourt, and the former President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, Julio María Sanguinetti, stated that these understandings were arrived at through a dialogue which was at all times guided by patriotic considerations, and in which all the Panamanian participants, without exception, made every possible effort to find common ground and thus to give the national and international evidence of a deeply felt and fully assumed historical responsibility.

The signatories place on record their appreciation of the thoughtful initiative of the United Nations and the valuable contribution to the Encounter of former Presidents Belisario Betancourt and Julio María Sanguinetti.

Bambito, District of Volcán, Republic of Panama, 3 August 1993

I. REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

(Signed) Roberto ALEMAN, President
Liberal Party (PL)

(Signed) Roberto BRENES
Civil Renovation Party (PRC)

(Signed) Ricardo Arias CALDERON, President
Christian Democratic Party (PDC)

(Signed) Jacinto CARDENAS, President
Union of Independent Democrats (UDI)

(Signed) Alberto CIGARRUISTA
Authentic Liberal Party (PLA)

(Signed) Jorge FLORES, President
Peoples National Party (PNP)

(Signed) Tomas GONZALEZ, President
Popular Alliance (AP)

(Signed) Arrigo GUARDIA, President
Movement for National Integration (MINA)

(Signed) Carlos LOPEZ GUEVARA, President
Labour Party (PALA)

(Signed) Fernando MANFREDO
Solidarity Party (PS)

(Signed) Carlos ORILLAC, Secretary
Liberal Republican Party (LIBRE)

(Signed) José Manuel PAREDES, President
National Unity Mission (MUN)

(Signed) Ernesto PEREZ BALLADARES, Secretary
Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD)

(Signed) Alfredo RAMIREZ, President
Party of the National Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA)

(Signed) Hugo ROSALES
Pápa Egoró Movement (MPE)

(Signed) Pedro VALLARINO, President
National Renovation Movement (MORENA)

(Signed) Lucas ZARAK
Arnulfist Party (PA)

II. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LABOUR SECTOR

(Signed) Elberto COBOS, Secretary-General
National Union of Panamanian Workers

(Signed) Mariano MENA, Secretary-General
General Union of Panamanian Workers

(Signed) Aniano PINZON, Secretary-General
Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama

III. REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS

(Signed) Eduardo VALLARINO, President
National Council on Private Enterprise

(Signed) Ricardo DURAN, President
Chamber of Commerce for Industry and Agriculture in Panama

(Signed) Victoria FIGGE, President
Panamanian Association of Company Executives

(Signed) Darío SELLES, President
Union of Industrialists of Panama

IV. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

(Signed) Monsignor José Luis LACUNZA
Auxiliary Bishop of Panama

V. REPRESENTATIVES OF UNIVERSITIES

(Signed) Stanley MUSCHETT, Rector
Santa María La Antigua University

(Signed) Carlos Iván ZUNIGA, Rector
University of Panama

VI. SPECIAL INVITEES

(Signed) Dennis Allen FRIAS, Vice President
Electoral Tribunal of Panama

(Signed) Guillermo FORD
Vice President of the Republic of Panama

(Signed) Irene PERURENA, Executive Director
Justice and Peace Commission of Panama

(Signed) Gilberto GUARDIA, Administrator
Canal Commission

WITNESSES

(Signed) Julio María SANGUINETTI
Ex-President of the Eastern
Republic of Uruguay

(Signed) Fernando ZUMBADO
Regional Director for Latin
America and the Caribbean
of the United Nations
Development Programme

(Signed) Belisario BETANCOURT
Ex-President of the
Republic of Colombia

(Signed) Eduardo NINO-MORENO
Resident Representative
United Nations Development
Programme and United Nations
Resident Coordinator
in Panama